

## August 30, 2006 Murtha responds to Rumsfeld's comments

For Immediate Release

Aug. 30, 2006

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Johnstown, PA - The following is Congressman Murtha's response to Secretary Rumsfeld's recent speech from Salt Lake City, Utah.

"If there is a moral and intellectual confusion about this war, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld is the one that is confused; his overly optimistic mischaracterizations of this war continue to confuse and dishearten Americans."

Murtha also noted the numerous mischaracterizations from Secretary Rumsfeld:

Fall 2002

Rumsfeld: "If you [Source: worry about just] the cost, the money, Iraq is a very different situation from Afghanistan...Iraq has oil. They have financial resources." [Source: Fortune Magazine, Fall 2002]

January 19, 2003

Rumsfeld: "Well, the Office of Management and Budget, has come up with a number that's something under \$50 billion for the cost. How much of that would be the U.S. burden, and how much would be other countries, is an open question." [Source: Media Stakeout, 1/19/03]

Murtha: By the end of this fiscal year the cost of the war in Iraq to the United States will be nearly \$450 billion dollars.

February 7, 2003

Rumsfeld: "It is unknowable how long that conflict [the war in Iraq] will last. It could last six days, six weeks. I doubt six months."

Murtha: This war has lasted longer than the Korean War, World War I and World War II in Europe.

February 23, 2003

Rumsfeld: "The idea that it would take several hundred thousand U.S. forces I think is far off the mark," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

Murtha: The professionals in the U.S. military recommended 350,000 troops to be available.

February 20, 2003

Rumsfeld: "Do you expect the invasion, if it comes, to be welcomed by the majority of the civilian population of Iraq?" Jim Lehrer asked the defense secretary on PBS' The News Hour. "There is no question but that they would be welcomed," Rumsfeld replied, referring to American forces."

Murtha: According to the polls, the overwhelming majority of Iraqis think of the U.S. as occupiers.

March 27, 2003

Rumsfeld: "I don't believe that the United States has the responsibility for reconstruction, in a sense...[Reconstruction] funds can come from those various sources I mentioned: frozen assets, oil revenues and a variety of other things, including the Oil for Food, which has a very substantial number of billions of dollars in it. [Source: Senate Appropriations Hearing, 3/27/03]

March 30, 2003

Rumsfeld: "It happens not to be the area where weapons of mass destruction were dispersed. We know where they are. They're in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south and north somewhat."

April 11, 2003

Rumsfeld: "I don't know that there is much reconstruction to do." [Source: Reuters, "U.S. Officials Play Down Iraq Reconstruction Needs," Entous, 4/11/03]

December 8, 2004

Rumsfeld: As you know, you go to war with the Army you have. They're not the Army you might want or wish to have at a later time.

Murtha: I personally discovered in Iraq 44,000 troops without body armor and shortages of up-armored Humvees and jammers.

February 2, 2006

Rumsfeld: "Is Iraq going to be a long war?" Mr. Rumsfeld answered, "No, I don't believe it is."

April 4, 2006

Rumsfeld: In response to Sec. Rice's statement that the United States had made thousands of "tactical errors" in handling the war in Iraq. "I don't know what she was talking about, to be perfectly honest," said Rumsfeld.

August 2, 2006

QUESTION: And the question, Mr. Secretary, after your most recent visit and this spike in violence, do you believe that Iraq is closer than ever to the brink of civil war?

Rumsfeld: "Closer than ever."

Rumsfeld: "Clearly, there's sectarian violence. People are being killed. Sunnis are killing Shia; Shia are killing Sunnis. Kurds seem not to be involved."

"Just because he says it, doesn't mean it is true."